

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7629

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PINT PE
SUBJ: MINE STRIKE CONTINUES

REFS: (A) LIMA 7541, (B) LIMA 6909

1. THE PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND FOCEP'S GENARO LEDESMA ALONG WITH MINEWORKER REPRESENTATIVES (REF A) HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE BUT CTP SECRETARY GENERAL JULIO CRUZADO THINGS THAT IT MAY BE HELD TODAY (AUGUST 25). CRUZADO ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL MAINTAIN THE GOP'S POSITION OF REFUSING TO REPLACE THE FIRED WORKERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ MAY OFFER THE DISCHARGED WORKERS LARGER SUBSIDIES WHILE THEY ARE UNEMPLOYED AND/OR MORE SEVERANCE PAY.

2. TWO TO THREE THOUSAND WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CENTRO-MIN (CERRO DE PASCO) AND LA OROYA MINES HAVE BEEN IN LIMA SEVERAL DAYS. THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL. MOST OF THEM ARE STAYING IN A PARK BELONGING TO SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY'S MEDICAL FACULTY. HOWEVER, THESE WORKERS HAVE LITTLE MONEY AND MANY OF THEIR CHILDREN ARE ILL FROM THE CHANGE IN CLIMATE AND FROM SLEEPING IN TENTS OR IN THE OPEN AIR.

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3. SOME OF THE MINERS HAVE BEEN EATING IN APRA'S CASA DEL PUEBLO KITCHEN. THEY ARE QUITE DISILLUSIONED AND SMALL GROUPS ARE RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES, ACCORDING TO CRUZADO. MANY ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THE GOP WILL NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION. APRA IS SENDING DOCTORS TO EXAMINE THE SICK CHILDREN AND TRYING TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP THE MINEWORKERS RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THE FEDERATION OF RAILROAD WORKERS (A CTP AFFILIATE) IS PREPARED TO

OFFER FREE TRAIN SERVICE TO THOSE DESIRING TO GO BACK TO THE MINES. THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE FEDERATION OF MINE AND METAL-WORKERS, UDP DELEGATE RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ, HAS BEEN TELLING WORKERS THAT IF THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES THEY WILL BE ARRESTED. THE GOP HAS DENIED ANY SUCH PLANS AND ASSURED CRUZADO THAT THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT ARREST OR HARASS RETURNING WORKERS.

4. SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION (SPCC) OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER MORNING OF AUGUST 25 THAT STRIKE CONTINUES IN TOQUEPALA MINE AND ILO SMELTER. SPCC'S CUAJONE REMAINS OPERATING. BOTH FOCEP AND CTP CLAIM TO HAVE ORGANIZED THE LATTER MINE. FOCEP'S LEADERS IN THE AREA CALLED FOR A SYMPATHY STRIKE AUGUST 23 IN CUAJONE BUT SO FAR THE WORKERS ARE REMAINING ON THE JOB.

5. THE ASSEMBLY IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN AUGUST 25 AT 5 PM. DELEGATES WILL CONTINUE THEIR DEBATE ON ARTICLE THREE (REF B) AND THE LEFT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THE MINE SITUATION. HOWEVER, APRA AND PPC CAN BLOCK FORMAL DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION AS THEY DID AUGUST 22 (PARA 3, REF A).

6. COMMENT: WHILE CRUZADO REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT MINERS' STRIKE WILL BE SETTLED WITHOUT THE GOP GIVING IN ON THE REHIRING ISSUE, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THIS IS JUSTIFIED. AS APRA LEADER PRIALE RECENTLY NOTED TO EMBOFF, THE STRIKE QUESTION IS VERY MUCH A POLITICAL ONE INVOLVING HIGH STAKES FOR THE EXTREME LEFT, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP IN TERMS
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OF THEIR RELATIVE POWER. SHLAUDEMAN

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